AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 25, 32, and 34-39 without prejudice. Please accept amended Claims 20 and 27 as follows:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for processing multimedia data in a computer system, comprising:

receiving as input a high-level concept describing data to be accessed;

translating the high-level concept into a low-level query by using stored concept constructs which are defined using features derived from a plurality of application domains, wherein the stored concept constructs are each represented using a hierarchical fuzzy graph data tree-structure comprising nodes that correspond to child-concepts and a subset of the features, aggregation edges that correspond to parent-child relationships, and association edges between siblings that correspond to inter-sibling constraints; and

transferring the low-level query to one or more search engines to access information using the low-level query.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 20, further comprising:

storing the concept constructs in a concept library module;

storing the features in a feature library module;

storing constraints in a constraint library module; and

storing matching algorithms in a matching algorithm library module.

22. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 21, further comprising interfacing the library modules to the application domains.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 21, further comprising building a concept construct.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 23, wherein the step of building a concept construct comprise combining one or more of the features with zero or more of the stored concept and zero or more of the constraints.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 20, wherein the features are user defined.

27. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for processing multimedia data in a computer system, said method steps comprising:

receiving as input a high-level concept describing data to be accessed;

translating the high-level concept into a low-level query by using stored concept constructs which are defined using features derived from a plurality of application domains, wherein the stored concept constructs are each represented using a hierarchical fuzzy graph data tree-structure comprising nodes that correspond to child-concepts and a subset of the features,

aggregation edges that correspond to parent-child relationships, and association edges between siblings that correspond to inter-sibling constraints; and

transferring the low-level query to one or more search engines to access information using the low-level query.

28. (Previously Presented) A program storage device as defined in Claim 27, further comprising:

storing the concept constructs in a concept library module;

storing the features in a feature library module;

storing constraints in a constraint library module; and

storing matching algorithms in a matching algorithm library module.

29. (Previously Presented) A program storage device as defined in Claim 28, further comprising interfacing the library modules to the application domains.

30. (Previously Presented) A program storage device as defined in Claim 28, further comprising building a concept construct.

31. (Previously Presented) A program storage device as defined in 30, wherein the step of building a concept construct comprise combining one or more of the features with

zero or more of the stored concept and

zero or more of the constraints.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) A program storage device as defined in Claim 27, wherein the features are user defined.

34-39. (Canceled)